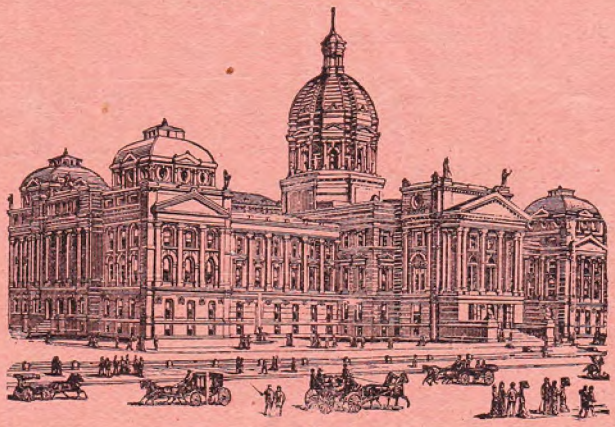
VOL. I. APRIL, 1893. No. 9.

The . . . . HOOSIER STAMP.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PHILATELY.



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The Hoosier Stamp.

Vol. I. No. 9. Indianapolis, April, 1893. 25 Cts. a Year.

ALSACE-LORRAINE POSTAGE STAMPS.

PH. HEINSBERGER, NEW YORK.

Probably very few of the numerous readers of Hoosier Stamp in America and Europe know the true reason why the postage stamps of Alsace-Lorraine were issued and why these stamps circulated only a short time: Now listen to me, dear reader; I will narrate to you all the details, but first some historical facts. Alsace and Lorraine were formerly independent Duchies and many of their Ducs and Ducal princes were warriors of great importance and members of the Ducal family of Lorraine (Lothringen) Emperor of the German Empire (I mean the first German Empire, ending 1840, "Das Heileige Romische Reich Deutscher Nation," the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations.) Alsace and Lorraine (Elsass and Lothringen) were independent members of the first German empire, but during the sixteenth century the King of France invaded Germany and seized and annexed Alsace-Lorraine, whose population was German. By political events it happened that "stolen" Alsace-Lorraine were recognized as French provinces by the great powers in Europe (outside of Germany) and for three centuries Alsace-Lorraine remained French territory. In 1870, during the Franco-German war, the German armies occupied Alsace-Lorraine, the postal authorities of the North German Confederation "would please the people" and issued "postage" stamps with the French money value, "Francs and Centimes," but without the name of the country. These stamps circulated not only in Alsace-Lorraine, but in all the French territory occupied by the united German victorious armies. Reader, this accounts for the cancellations, Sedan, Toulan, Berancon, Paris (Faubourg), which names you can find sometimes on the first issue of stamps of Alsace-Lorraine. These stamps circulated in French territory up to 1873, as long as German troops occupied France (necessary to the prompt payment of the war expenses, seven million francs). As the victorious united German troops were marching on the

streets of the out-hungered city of Paris (France), the fate of Alsace-Lorraine was sealed. When the old King of Prussia, William I, in the old French city, Versailles, was proclaimed German Emperor, as north and south Germany were united to an Empire, as Napoleon III Emperor of France with 300,000 soldiers, and marshals of France were made prisoners at Sedan, a city and fortress in France, then proud France begged for peace, and Alsace-Lorraine was the price for peace! That stolen German territory was forcibly returned to the "Fatherland."

The German Empire made Alsace-Lorraine independent (Reichsland) and a governor appointed by the imperial German congress, as the independent ruler of Alsace-Lorraine, with the capital Strassburg. Now let us return to the postage stamps of Alsace-Lorraine: There were issued by the North German Confederation two sets of stamps for Alsace-Lorraine, consisting of seven values each. The word "Postes" on top is of different lengths, 12 mms and 12½ mms and in the 10 centime value the letter "S" in "Postes" is shorter than the other letters. The first issue, network with points of wavy lines pointing upwards, on top, "Postes;" below, "Centimes," and the value. Issue 1870. 1 centime, olive; 2 centime, brown; 4 centime, grey; 5 centime, green; 10 centime, fawn (shade yellow brown); 20 centime, blue; 25 centime, dark brown; length of word "Postes" in these values is 12 mms.

Second issue: Inverted network, points of wavy lines pointing downwards; 1 centime, olive; 2 centime, red-brown; 4 centime, grey; 5 centime, green; 10 centime, fawn; 20 centime, blue; 25 centime, dark brown; length of word "Postes" in these values is 12½ mms.

The cancellation on some stamps is only a blue pencil mark, but mostly the cancellation is regular. The German armies occupying France had also an "Ambulant Post-office" and letters from German soldiers to their friends in Germany, and *vice versa*, were delivered free of charge and did not require any stamp. These ambulant post-offices were called "Feld Post Relais" and letters were cancelled with these words. In conclusion, I may ask the readers of my article: Have you in your album, Alsace-Lorraine postage stamps—first issue—cancelled? Very few of American stamp collectors can say so, as these stamps are very limited and very dear. Well, the second issue is much cheaper (made expressly by the German government for stamp collectors) and obtainable only unused.

Some leading (?) New York dealers in their catalogues offer this second issue at "a very high figure in used condition," but that cancellation is very deceitful, and collectors better buy this second issue in unused condition.

THE COLUMBIAN STAMP IN TROUBLE.

Ten miles from Ashville is a post-office known as Candler. Mr. J. S. Henry, of this city, sends a good many letters there, and lately has been using the Columbian stamps. He received a letter from his correspondent there saying that the postmaster at Candler had made him pay regular letter postage on every letter Mr. Henry had sent with the Columbian stamp on it, and compelled him to state who was sending letters "with those picture on them, for stamps" so he could "have the man indicted." In vain did Mr. Henry's correspondent explain and remonstrate. The letters with the Columbian stamps affixed were not forthcoming until, as the postmaster said, "the postage was paid."—*Charlottsville Observer.*

ENGLAND'S OPINION.

Here is a passage from an article in the St. James Gazette (London), in which comparison is made between a recent emission of the English government and one of our Columbian stamps: "Place the new stamp issued by the United States to celebrate the Columbus Centenary, beside the British stamp and compare the workmanship and even the taste. Here, in less than a square inch, a picture of Columbus soliciting aid from Isabella is reproduced. Not less than twenty figures are graphically introduced, and even their features are animate. It is, of course, questionable whether such a crowded scene is fitted for representation upon a stamp, but there can be no doubt that this production of the United States post-office must make us hide our heads in shame and despair."

TO DEALERS.

If you are a dealer in stamps, coins or curios, take at least a glance over our advertising columns and note the class of dealers who advertise with us. You will see the advertisements of the first established and best known wholesale and retail dealers in the United States, who have "lived and learned" and know the value of advertising.

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A Monthly Philatelic Magazine.

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Entered at the Indianapolis Post Office as second-class matter.

CHAS. E. BABCOCK, Editor.

Chas. E. Babcock & Co., Business M'grs,
244 College Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.

Editorial.

There will be on exhibition at the World's Fair, photographs of "The Veterans of the Postal Service;" of those who have been in the post-office for thirty-five years.

The new eight cent stamps of both series are in circulation.

The Canadian Journal of Philately is announced to appear soon, from Toronto, Canada. If there is anything in a name, Henry *Ades* Fowler should be well supported by "ads."

The Canadian Philatelist contains two riddles well worth reproducing, viz.:

Why should our $5.00 Columbus stamps have been issued in 1892? Because it's a head of Columbus.

Why are stamps like lamps? Because we look for shades among them.

The Stamp collector's Souvenir published by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp & Pub. Co., certainly deserves all the praise that has been lavished upon it by the philatelic public and press. The reading matter is mainly for intending collectors, but it contains an encyclopaedia of knowledge not possessed by many advanced collectors. The souvenir is illustrated with portraits of the most prominent philatelists of the world.

If you want to turn green, or any other color, with envy, ask the mailing clerk to show you the receipt book for second-class matter. You will see hundreds of the scare newspaper stamps of nearly every variety, even including the high values.

Chas. Jenney's poem "Newfoundland" in the Canadian Philatelist is, in our estimation, the finest piece of philatelic poetry yet produced.

The well known French collector, Mr. Berchut, of Havre, has recently disposed of his collection for a little over *two thousand pounds* to another French collector. This is the largest collection that has changed hands intact, in France, since Messrs. Caillebottes sold their magnificent collection for seven thousand pounds several years ago.

Upon a thousand envelopes
He stuck Columbian stamps:
He won the bet, but it cost him dear,
For the doctor says it will take him a year
To cure his jaw of the cramps.
—*Electric Phil.*

TO COLLECTORS.

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a moment while I whisper in it that I am a collector and dealer in foreign and U. S. stamps, and want to hear from you about buying or exchanging. I have sheets marked from 1c. up to 25c. for young dealers or collectors. I will either sell at 40% discount or exchange value for value. Wish to exchange stamps by means of approval sheets with every collector in the United States. Write. Letters answered at once, and address, H. E. KELLEY, Ed. "Star" Decoto, Cal.

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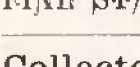

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	Per 1.	Per 100.	Per 1,000
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3c. green.....		$0.75	
4c. ultramarine.		.40	
5c. chocolate brown		.10	
6c. royal purple		2.00	
10c. brown.....		.15	
15c. green.....		1.50	
30c. brown.....		3.00	
50c. blue.....		6.00	
$1.00 rose.....	$0.20		
$2.00 red.....	.40		
$3.00 green.....	.75		
$4.00 carmine...	1.25		
$5.00 black.....	1.50		

In addition to the above I want to buy scarce U. S. and Foreign Stamps, single or in quantities, for prompt cash.

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Columbian Packets

No. 1. The 1893 **packet** contains 50 mixed Columbian Stamps. This **may** surprise you. Price 25c. Five for $1.00.

No. 2. **The big 1893 packet** contains 100 Columbian Stamps. This **will** surprise you. Price 50c. Five for $2.00.

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No. 5. **The World's Fair packet.** This will open your eyes. Price $1.00. Six for $5.00.

Each one of the above five packets $2.00, or six of each $10.00. Big money in retailing the Stamps.

Special: To all sending $1.00 or over for packets we will send **free** an elegant souvenier medal of the World's Columbian Exposition. Address,

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